

June 5, 2024

Chair Delgado & Members of the Governing Board
South Coast Air Quality Management District
21865 Copley Drive
Diamond Bar, CA 91765

Re: Proposed Amended Rule 1146.2 – Strong Support for Passing this Regulation to Improve Air Quality and Health Outcomes

Dear Chair Delgado and Members of the Governing Board,

On behalf of the Green & Healthy Homes Initiative, the nation's largest healthy housing organization, I write in support of passing Proposed Amended Rule (PAR) 1146.2. This regulation takes important steps toward reducing Nitrogen Oxide (NO_x) emissions in the South Coast region by covering close to 10% of all NO_x emissions from stationary sources in the region, and by including zero emissions standards for all equipment covered under the rule.

NO_x emissions are associated with a range of harmful health impacts for those exposed to elevated concentrations, including aggravation of respiratory diseases that can cause acute medical episodes (such as asthma-related hospitalizations and emergency room visits) for short term exposures and increased risk of the development of asthma and susceptibility to respiratory infections for long term exposures.¹ Studies across the country have found disproportionate exposure among communities of color to NO_x emissions as well as other air pollutants.^{2,3} By passing PAR 1146.2 and additional future rules to further reduce NO_x emissions, the Air District will improve air quality, health outcomes, and environmental justice in the South Coast Region.

Sincerely,

Ruth Ann Norton
President and CEO

¹ Environmental Protection Agency, Basic Information about NO₂. <https://www.epa.gov/no2-pollution/basic-information-about-no2>

² Liu, J., Clark, L. P., Bechle, M. J., Hajat, A., Kim, S. Y., Robinson, A. L., Sheppard, L., Szpiro, A. A., & Marshall, J. D. (2021). Disparities in Air Pollution Exposure in the United States by Race/Ethnicity and Income, 1990-2010. *Environmental health perspectives*, 129(12), 127005. <https://doi.org/10.1289/EHP8584>

³ American Lung Association. (2023). Disparities in the Impact of Air Pollution. <https://www.lung.org/clean-air/outdoors/who-is-at-risk/disparities>.